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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
20 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Afro-Asian Conference Developments

The leading event of the second day of the conference was Chou En-lai's speech. In keeping with Peiping's pre-conference maneuvering to identify itself with the neutralists, the speech was relatively moderate in tone. It was also a clever speech in that Chou placed Peiping's views on such controversial issues as Formosa and UN membership before the conference without asking for anything. He also accused the United States of being the only nation creating tensions in the Formosa area and of seeking to overthrow the Peiping regime.

With regard to the conference itself, Chou said that despite ideological divergencies, the determination to "do away with the calamities and suffering of colonialism" was a common aspiration. He emphasized his contention that peaceful coexistence "can be realized," and stated that "China is ready to establish normal relations with other Asian and African countries...and is willing to promote the normalization of relations between China and Japan." Chou also indicated that Peiping is prepared to settle the problem of Overseas Chinese through agreement with individual countries.

In other speeches, pro-Western countries--notably Turkey, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines--delivered strong attacks on Communism, and Arab delegates continued their bitter denunciation of Israel. Japan apologized for its part in World War II and called for peaceful settlement of disputes as well as expansion of economic co-operation. Prince Sihanouk upheld the neutralist approach to international affairs and placed Cambodia at the side of India and Burma.

Although there seems to be some difficulties regarding procedure which still have to be ironed out, three committees have been organized to carry on the conference work. These committees are to cover political, economic and cultural affairs.

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All delegate chiefs will be members of the political committee. Members of the other two committees will be chosen from among the "experts" of each country's delegation.

A unanimous vote in the committee is required on any issue before it can be sent to a plenary session for conference approval. In the event of disagreement, each committee may publish a communiqué giving the details of the dispute and tabulating the votes of all members. This latter provision probably was insisted upon by the Pakistanis who also demanded that verbatim records be kept in order to prevent the neutralists, who dominate the secretariat, from manipulating the news.

Prince Wan of Thailand has been elected rapporteur of the political committee after Nehru--who had been nominated by Chou--withdrew his name. Six countries--Indonesia, Afghanistan, Communist China, India, Pakistan and Thailand--have been appointed as a subcommittee to study the matter of human rights in some detail. It is reported that there was general agreement within the committee that the study should be conducted within the framework of the UN declaration of human rights. Nehru and Chou reportedly are cool to this approach.

The Indonesian minister of economics has been elected chairman of the economic committee. In a four-hour session reportedly covering economic co-operation in general, the committee is understood to have agreed that the UN should become one of the main sources of financial assistance in the Afro-Asian area.

The South Vietnam delegate to the cultural committee is reported to have delivered a violently anti-Communist speech, saying that coexistence is impossible. Both North and South Vietnam have been appointed to the drafting subcommittee. 25X1

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A Pakistani working paper on nuclear weapons suggests that the conference call for a cessation of thermonuclear tests (as distinct from tests of other forms of fissionable weapons), request the UN to study the dangers of nuclear weapons tests, and recommend the establishment of an international monitoring service to detect explosions.

The Communist newspapers in Djakarta editorially suggest that various committees be established to continue the conference work. This is believed to be the first indication of Communist interest in anything permanent developing out of the Bandung meeting.

Ambassador Cumming reports that North Africans and individuals agitating against the Union of South Africa are apparently being given greater consideration at the conference than mere visitors. Cumming observed the French ambassador in "vigorous conversation" with the Indonesian foreign minister and believes he was protesting against such privileges being extended to the North Africans.

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